

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration of this application, as amended.

Without acceding to the outstanding rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), independent Claims 1 and 4 have been amended to set forth more clearly certain distinctive features of applicants' invention. In particular, Claims 1 and 4 each now recite that the central processing unit is operated at a first voltage, and that both the output driver and the load circuit of the interface unit operate at a second voltage higher than the first voltage. Dependent Claim 6 has been cancelled, without prejudice or disclaimer, in view of the foregoing. Other claims have been amended in view of the foregoing and to otherwise improve the language.

Schaefer is directed to an apparatus for reducing the power consumed by a memory device. The apparatus includes a power saving mode in which the operation of a delay compensation circuit is suspended. In contrast to Applicants' invention, Schaefer does not teach operating the output driver and load circuit of an interface unit at the same voltage, which is higher than the voltage used to operate the CPU.

The Examiner has taken Official Notice that operating one part of a circuit at one voltage that is different from

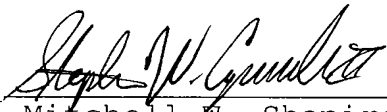
another voltage operating on another part is well known in the art. Even assuming, arguendo, this to be true, it fails to negate patentability of the claimed invention. As presently amended, Claims 1 and 4 recite that both the output driver and the load circuit of the interface unit operate at the second voltage, which is higher than the first voltage used to operate the CPU. The prior art neither teaches nor suggests operating both the output driver and the load circuit of an interface unit at the same voltage, which is also different from that used to operate a CPU.

Accordingly, Claims 1 and 4, and their respective dependents, distinguish patentably from the cited references and should now be allowed.

Applicants respectfully request that this case now be passed to issue.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge to Deposit Account No. 50-1165 (XA-10084) any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 that may be required by this paper and to credit any overpayment to that Account. If any extension of time is required in connection with the filing of this paper and has not been separately requested, such extension is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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